

VIRGINIA HUD LINES

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E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

800/842-2610, extension 3742

Bill Miles, Director

www.hud.gov/virginia

RESPA REFORM

Noting that “with so many competing interests it will be difficult to make everyone happy,” HUD Secretary Alfonso Jackson has outlined a timetable aimed at “simplifying and improving the way consumers buy and refinance homes” under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act. The RESPA “reform roadmap” will include three Washington invitation-only roundtables with consumer and industry representatives who commented on HUD’s 2002 RESPA reform proposal as well as three other meetings – in Chicago, Los Angeles and Ft. Worth – co-hosted by U.S. Small Business Administration “to listen to the unique concerns” of smaller real estate and settlement service providers. “I am more concerned about doing this right,” Jackson said, “than doing it fast.” For more, visit <http://www.hud.gov/respareform/index.cfm>

MORE DEADLINES

The last of 2005 SuperNOFA deadlines arrive in July. Deadline for Section 202, Elderly Housing is Friday, July 1st; for Resident Opportunities Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) grants for the elderly and persons with disabilities is Wednesday, July 6th; for the Enhancement of Public Housing HOPE VI Communities through Mentoring Demonstration is Thursday, July 7th; for Public Housing Neighborhood Networks and Rural Housing & Economic Development is Monday, July 11th; and for ROSS grants for families is Monday, July 25th.

MILESTONES

As we celebrate National Homeownership Month, FHA mortgage insurance passed many a milestone in Virginia. By the end of May, Charlottesville area had insured 9,000th FHA mortgage, Richmond area its 160,000th mortgage and Hampton Roads its 225,000th mortgage while Danville area was on pace to insure 5,000th FHA mortgage, Winchester area its 5,500th mortgage, Lynchburg area its 11,000th mortgage and Roanoke area its 32,000th mortgage by end of calendar 2005.

READY FOR ROANOKE?

Want to know more about mixed income housing, Cradle to Cradle housing design, New Market tax credits, the new Federal bankruptcy laws, affordable workforce housing, how HUD works, multi-family financing, “green” building or outcome measurement? Then you’re ready for the 2005 Governor’s Housing Conference September 14th through 16th at the Hotel Roanoke. Save \$30 with “early bird” registration by August 1st. Learn more at www.dhcd.virginia.gov or call 804/372-7171.

BRIEF BRIEFS

Guy Ciarrocchi named HUD Regional Director for Delaware, D.C., Maryland, Virginia & West Virginia. . . Winchester selected as 2005 All American City. . . IRS accepting applications from non-profits through August 5th to provide tax counseling for elderly. . . Final Rule in June 28th Federal Register establishes up-front mortgage insurance premiums for HUD Section 203k acquisition & rehab and Section 234 condo mortgages, effective December 27th. . . HUD grant helps Roanoke Redevelopment & Housing open brand-new Neighborhood Networks cyber-center in city’s Washington Park neighborhood. . . Governor Warner signs resolution supporting Helmets to Hardhats national initiative to link “transitioning” military to civilian careers in the building and construction trades. . . Housing authorities in Danville, Petersburg, Richmond and Virginia Beach host National Homeownership Month celebrations. . . Keep America Beautiful seeking applications until September 16th at www.graffitihurts.org to recognize innovative efforts to combat graffiti. . . VHDA names National City Mortgage, SunTrust, TowneBank, C&F Mortgage, Southern Trust, Home Loan, Resource Mortgage, Prosperity Mortgage, George Mason Mortgage and Benchmark Mortgage “Top 10 Lenders”. . . Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing to host all-day “Profit by Design” workshop on in-fill housing at Constant Convocation Center, July 21st. . . Saying “CDBG brings real results to people,” Governor Warner awards \$10.7 million in CDBG funds to 18 localities to put “a good solid roof” and “clean water in the sink” for “more than 4,600 Virginians”. . . Lynchburg News & Advance says Bedford Science & Technology Center students finish third house Center has “built from ground up”. . . Virginia Association of REALTORS study says real estate industry “has accounted for approximately 11.5 percent of the Gross State Product over the last decade”. . . Mainstreet Homes, Southern Traditions, Hometown Realty, RIC Builders, McMahon Builders and LifeStyles Builders to help Richmond Habitat for Humanity “blitz build” four new homes in September. . . \$240,000 in ARC funds recommended by Governor Warner for eight tourism and “e-tech” projects in southwest Virginia. . . Richmond Redevelopment & Housing okays \$113.6 million plan to maintain its 21 housing complexes over next 20 years. . . Social Security Administration sets July 31st deadline for homeless outreach grants of up to \$150,000 to improve assistance “medical and social service providers” give homeless who file for Social Security benefits. . . www.hud.gov launches five, 20-minute Owning Your Future modules on “homebuying how-to’s”. . . Sign up for HUD Richmond’s free, July 27th “Starting a Neighborhood Network Cyber-Center” by calling 800/842-2610 for Jerryl Bennett, ext. 3737, or Casey LaFever, ext. 3863

FUNING-MENTALS

Interested in the nuts-and-bolts of HUD and other Federal funds? Then attend free, two-day “Grantwriting & More” workshops at Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw July 19th & 20th, Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa August 3rd & 4th or YWCA of Roanoke September 12th & 13th. Space is limited, so register early with anne_davis@hud.gov or call her at 800/842-2610, extension 3741.

STAY COOL

The Virginia Department of Social Services has set August 15th as deadline for more than 35,000 eligible Virginia households to apply for “cooling assistance” – payments of bills or security deposits to operate cooling equipment, repair of a central air system or heat pump, purchase of a whole-house fan or window-unit air conditioner. For more, visit www.dss.state.va.us/benefit/energyasst.html

QUOTE TO NOTE

“When dirt was turned for the first house in Roanoke that will be built incorporating the cradle-to-cradle design principles,” *The Roanoke Times* recently opined, “it was not too far-fetched to wonder whether the impact might be felt one day in China.” C2C theorist William McDonough, “is working with the China Housing Industry Association, which needs to build housing for 400 million people in the next 12 years. How great would it be” for Roanoke “to gain a foothold in that market?”

DON'T FORGET

Appalachian Regional Commission leadership development workshops July 19th & September 7th in Clintwood, July 20th & September 8th in St. Paul and July 21st & September 9th in Grundy. For more, contact DHCD's Ramona Chapman at 804/3717167.

GOING FORWARD

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